

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community



US Army Corps
of Engineers

April 2010

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A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

Greetings fellow planners. This month I want to share several items of interest with you regarding the Planning Community of Practice.

To begin, on April 15th, I had the honor of testifying before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, regarding proposals for a [Water Resources Development Act of 2010](#). My [remarks](#) focused on post-WRDA 2007 projects that have signed Chief's Reports and have been cleared by the Administration and those reports that are under Administration review. Between WRDA 2000 and WRDA 2007, we produced 46 Chief's Reports and since WRDA 2007, we produced 6 Chief's Reports. Other topics discussed during the hearing included the revisions to the Principles and Guidelines and the status of ongoing projects. Also testifying were representatives of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, the Nature Conservancy, the Dredging Contractors of America, the Everglades Foundation, and the Crounse Corporation (representing the Inland Waterways Users Board).

I also had the opportunity to discuss the Planning program in front of the National Research Council's [Committee on Improving Principles and Guidelines for Federal Water Resources Planning](#) which met on March 30 and 31 in Washington, DC. As part of their ongoing review of the Principles & Guidelines revisions, the committee wanted to receive information from representatives of Federal agencies to inform their review. Presentations were made by Federal representatives, including Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chairwoman of the Council on Environmental Quality who serves as the Study Sponsor; Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); myself, and representatives from the Department of the Interior; the Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency. A consistent message from the Federal presenters was the importance of the P & G to the respective agency water resource missions, and a commitment and enthusiasm for modernizing the P & G for the 21st Century.

Finally, last week I had a working session with Planning leaders from around the Corps as the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) met in Portland, Oregon. We discussed the importance of program execution; establishment of metrics that communicate the contributions of planners; implementation activities associated

with WRDA 07 initiatives; the development of initiatives for the next WRDA; PAB initiatives to improve the capability, training and development of the Planning workforce; a review of the PAB membership and charter; and

modernization of the planning program for the 21st century. The next PAB meeting will be in June 2010 in conjunction with the Planning Community of Practice Conference in Orlando, Florida.

I am excited about the Planning CoP Conference in Orlando, FL. We have developed a great program including plenary sessions with ASA(CW) Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Chief of Engineers LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp, and Director of Civil Works Mr. Steven Stockton offering their views and perspectives on the Corps and its Civil Works missions, and nearly 100 presentations by Corps practitioners. Also planned are meetings of each of the Planning sub communities of practice.

I look forward to seeing you in Orlando in June!

Essayons,

Tab

Theodore A. "Tab" Brown, P.E., SES
Chief, Planning and Policy HQUSACE
Directorate of Civil Works
Planning Smart, Building Strong

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

This month's issue of *Planning Ahead* begins with an article by Mr. Bruce Carlson concerning the upcoming Planning Community of Practice Conference, scheduled to take place from June 7-10 in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the conference is "Planning Smart, Building Strong." The conference agenda is taking shape, and we have a list of distinguished speakers as during the conference plenary sessions, including Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp; and Director of Civil Works Mr. Steven L. Stockton.

Ms. Erin Wilson of the Institute for Water Resources announces that the Institute has developed a website to address the subject of risk analysis, including a discussion of the Corps model of risk analysis and the examination of the subjects of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Also Ms. Wilson announces the publication of the Deep Draft Navigation National Economic Development Manual, IWR Report 10-R-4.

Ms. Julie Marcy, Ms. Courtney Chambers and Ms. Antisa Webb of the Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory describe a new website that the Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise and the Environmental Lab has developed to assist

individuals in identifying training courses in the environmental sciences and related fields.

Ms. Julie Watkins of the Mobile District and a member of the Planning Associates Class of 2010 reports on the Planning Associates class to visit Washington, DC for three weeks to learn about water resources planning and policy development from a Washington, DC perspective as part of their "DC Experience".

Ms. Charissa Kelly of the Fort Worth District and a member of the Planning Associates Class of 2010 reports on the Planning Associates visit to Folsom, CA to learn about flood risk management.

Also in the month's issue of *Planning Ahead* is a listing of employment opportunities from around the Corps, upcoming PROSPECT training courses, workshop, conferences, and recent publications in the field of water resources planning and engineering.

Thanks again to all the members of the Planning Community of Practice for their support and interest in the *Planning Ahead* newsletter.

Ken Lichtman, Editor
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PLANNING CoP NEWS

Planning Community of Practice Conference 2010: “PLANNING SMART, BUILDING STRONG – Developing Sound Water Resources Solutions”

by Bruce Carlson, Headquarters

Here are the latest updates on the conference, to be held June 7-10, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

PLENARY SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

The conference agenda is taking shape. I'm pleased to announce that the following speakers will be making presentations in the plenary sessions at the conference:

Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy - Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Commander and Chief of Engineers
Mr. Steven L. Stockton, Director of Civil Works, USACE
Mr. Theodore A. "Tab" Brown, Chief, Planning and Policy Division, USACE
Mr. Patrick Brennan (the Disney VP who energized the Senior Leaders Conference last year with his speech on innovation - "Imagineering")

Watch *Planning Ahead* and the [Conference website](#) for more details as the program solidifies, including pre-conference meetings and field trips.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN – REGISTER NOW!

Registration fees for the conference are being collected online. The fee for this year's conference is \$200, which helps to defray the various conference related expenses and includes daily breakfasts.

All conference participants must register and pay online in advance, so please sign up and make your payment as soon as possible. For your convenience, your credit card will not be charged for the Conference fee until May 9, 2010.

Please print your receipt for reimbursement on your travel voucher. Note that you should enter only the month and year of your credit card. Your email will NOT be used for any forms of solicitation by the events planner, but they are required to offer an “opt out” option under their contract. Here is the link to the conference registration web page: <http://www.wynjade.com/usace10/>.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW – SECURE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

The Rosen Plaza Hotel has set aside a block of rooms at the special conference rate of \$108 for conference attendees. Don't delay, make your reservation today!

Please note that most participants will start their stay June 7th, staying for 4 nights. There will be several pre-conference meetings and activities starting at noon on June 7, followed by an early evening icebreaker. The conference itself is scheduled for full days on Tuesday through Thursday, with most people departing Friday, June 11. (Please note that the special rate of \$108 is available to conference registrants from June 3 to June 16 to accommodate those who might like to extend their stay).

The link to the hotel's registration system is: <https://rhv1web.rosenhoteles.com/v1web/rp/Availability.asp?WCI=Groups&WCE=GroupSelect&BookID=31092&GroupPassword=1041013952>

If you do not wish to book a reservation via the internet, you may contact the hotel directly by calling 1-800-627-8258 or you may email your reservation request to reservations@rosenplaza.com

When calling the Rosen Plaza, please reference "USACE Planning Community of Practice conference" and the reservation agent will assist you.

Corps Risk Analysis Gateway Launched

By Erin Wilson, Institute for Water Resources

When and where will the next major flood occur? Will project bids come in under the government estimate? Will a built structure live up to its strength? How many work-related injuries can we expect on the job?

No matter where you work or what you are working on in the Corps, you face questions like these every day for which there are no easy answers. The reality is that we do not and cannot know the answers to many of the questions we run into during the performance of our jobs. What we can do, however, is to understand and manage the risks created by these uncertainties. Risk analysis is the responsibility of every Corps employee. It is an effective way of thinking about and organizing to solve problems on the job and to address uncertainty.

The Institute for Water Resources has developed a [website](#) to address the subject of risk analysis, including an understanding of the Corps model of risk analysis and an examination of the subjects of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

We invite you start by taking the one-hour online training course and then to explore other parts of the website for additional information, guidance, applications and other resources.

Please contact [Ms. Erin Wilson](#) if you have any questions.

IWR Announces Publication of Deep Draft Navigation National Economic Development Manual, IWR Report 10-R-4

By Erin Wilson, Institute for Water Resources

IWR would like to announce the publication of the updated Deep Draft Navigation National Economic Development Manual ([IWR Report 10-R-4](#)). This manual is one of a series of guides to assist Corps field economists in computing National Economic Development benefits. This manual will be published soon on-line as an interactive version. The Manual describes accepted economic analysis procedures for deep draft navigation projects. Stay tuned for an upcoming webinar on the manual that will be announced on the Economic Sub-CoP SharePoint Site, *Planning Ahead*, and through division economists. Please contact Ms. Erin Wilson at 703-428-6786 or erin.l.wilson@us.army.mil for any questions or comments.

Options for Environmental Training

By Julie Marcy, Courtney Chambers, and Antisa Webb, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory

Many planners are familiar with the Planning Core Curriculum PROSPECT courses PCC 1-7, but planners who are engaged in Ecosystem Restoration efforts also require an understanding of many environmental and related sciences. With a myriad of courses and providers to choose from, finding the right course can be challenging.

Some new tools have been developed by the [Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise](#) and the Engineer Research and Development Center's [Environmental Lab](#) to assist in training selection. These include:

- A list of 44 PROSPECT courses related to Planning and related sciences.
- Course details provided by instructors.
- An analysis of the course content by major topic area such as Alternatives Analysis, Modeling, Monitoring, etc.

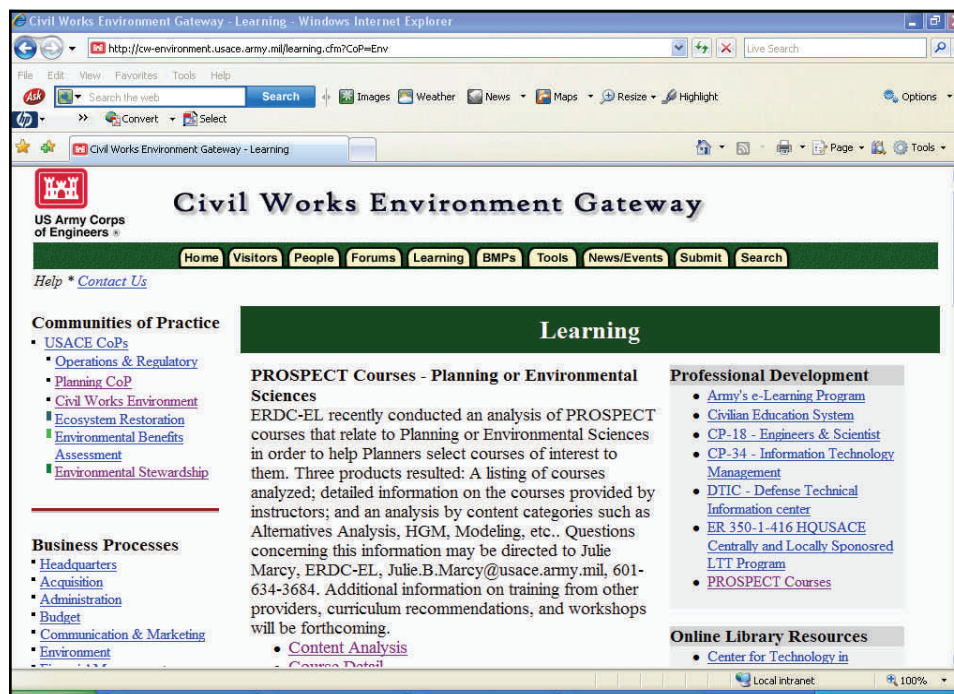
These spreadsheets are posted on the USACE Civil Works Environment-Gateway Learning page at <http://cw-environment.usace.army.mil/learning.cfm?CoP=Env>.

Lists of fundamental, science-based courses taught outside of the Corps are also being compiled. They serve as a one-stop reference for additional training opportunities, and an initial list on sources for Habitat Assessment training by other government agencies and universities is posted.

Additional efforts underway include:

- Development of a regional workshop on common model certification elements such as Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP), HydroGeomorphology (HGM), Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI), and Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI).
- Recommended environmental and related science topics for Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Planners.

So, the next time you are asked to create or update a 5-year Individual Development Plan, take a moment to visit these development tools on the E-Gateway and maximize your training investment.



Screen Capture of E-Gateway Learning Page

FEATURED ARTICLES

The Planning Associates Class of 2010: The DC Experience **By Julie Watkins, Mobile District**

The Planning Associates Class of 2010 is back on the road and this time to the Nation's Capitol for the DC Experience! The goal of the Washington, DC Experience is a combination of formal training, individual assignments, shadow activities, discussion sessions, presentations and field trips covering Washington DC that focuses on sites of historical and current significance to USACE. The training includes civics (Government organization and roles, authorization, appropriations and process) and a visit to the Institute of Water Resources (IWR). The course owner is Joy Muncy.

We are about to embark on week three, and so far the DC Experience has been packed and filled with opportunities to meet and greet USACE policy and decision makers from Headquarters (HQ), the Institute for Water Resources (IWR), the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA (CW)), staff from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and representatives from other agencies as well as representatives on Capitol Hill. We were also fortunate enough to get on the schedules of many busy people including Steve Stockton, Director of Civil Works; Jan Rasgus, Senior Policy Advisor; Harry Kitch, Deputy Chief, Planning and Policy Division; MG Grisoli, Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency Operations; Mark McKevitt from the ASA(CW) office; our Commanding General LTG Van Antwerp and Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works just to name a few.

The first week consisted of spending three days at USACE HQ in which we had the opportunity to meet and spend time with staff from HQ including Steve Stockton, Harry Kitch, our individual RITs, and from the ASA(CW) office Mark McKevitt, Doug Lamont, Mary Ann Matheny-Katz, and Cliff Fitzsimmons. Pete Louisa taught us about the Civil Works Program Development and the authorization/appropriations process. John Furry and Larry Prather taught us Water Resources Policy history and development. Wes Coleman and Lee Ware along with other team members from the Office of Water Project Review team came to speak to us regarding project review. On Friday of the first week, 5 March, we were



**Planning Associates with LTG Robert Van Antwerp,
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers**

scheduled to spend the morning at the Pentagon for a tour. However, the previous night, a shooting occurred at the Pentagon and our tour was cancelled for the next day. But one thing we are constantly told as a PA is to be flexible! We still were able to go to the Pentagon and Mark McKevitt gave us a quick tour and then coordinated a meeting with Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). We discussed with Ms. Darcy major current issues going on at USACE, as well as other government issues in which she is involved.



**Planning Associates with Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant
Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)**

After leaving the Pentagon, we made our way over to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) where we met Gene Ebner, Chief of the Water and Energy Branch, who taught us a basic lesson in government budgeting and spending. To learn more about the Office of Management and Budget, please visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb.

The second week kicked off with a field trip of Washington DC that focused on sites of historical and current significance to USACE. We visited many sites around the city and discussed their historical significance and how the Corps' helped to build the city of Washington DC.

Day two of the second week was a day spent on Capitol Hill. We began the day with a House Authorization Committee briefing by John Anderson, Minority Staff Director, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Water and Environmental Subcommittee. He gave us the perspective and differences of being on the Majority side and Minority side of the House. From there, we were given time to attend a House or Senate Hearing of our choice. We met back up for a tour of the Capitol and afterwards visited our state representatives. The afternoon wrapped up with a Senate Appropriations Committee Staff briefing by Roger Cockrell, Majority Staff, Senate Energy and Water, and Related agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Wednesday we were back at HQ for discussion on the Policy Review Module, our team assignment for the year. That afternoon, Jan Rasgus taught us the Legislation/ Authorization business process and the WRDA development process and implementation.

The final two days of the week were spent at the Institute for Water Resources (IWR). Bob Pietrowsky, director of IWR, welcomed us and gave a general overview of IWR. During the next two days, we learned about how IWR provides support for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the regulatory program at Headquarters, the Permanent Association of International Navigation Congresses (PIANC), the Conflict Resolution and Public Participation Center of Expertise, working with the U.S. Geological Survey and other federal and state agencies, regional sediment management, and the Planning Community of Practice (PCoP).

Other topics covered during the DC Experience included the Corps' working relationship with environmental interest groups and government relations. The second week wrapped up with a presentation from Terry Breyman, the Assistant for Water Resources Development for ASA(CW), on the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) discussing

the role of CEQ in the update of the Principles and Guidelines, as well as the CEQ's history and implementation process.

We are now entering our third and final week of the DC experience. This week our schedule entails a lesson on risk communication, shadowing senior officials, media training, and discussion on Independent External Peer and review and a wrap up of our time spent in DC. After this final week in DC, we have a three week break at our home districts then off to Folsom, CA for Flood Risk Management!



Planning Associates Class of 2010 at USACE, Headquarters

Where are the PAs in their year long journey?

Bold indicates course just completed.

1. Orientation, Team Building, Leadership, and Communication (Deerfield Beach, FL)
2. Planning Fundamentals (Phoenix, AZ)
3. Ecosystem Restoration (New Orleans, LA)
4. Engineering Research and Development Center and Mississippi Valley Division (Vicksburg, MS)
5. Watersheds (San Antonio, TX)
- 6. Washington, DC Experience**
7. Flood Risk Management
8. Inland Navigation
9. Coastal Storm Damage
10. Planning Community of Practice Conference
11. Deep Draft Navigation
12. Endangered Species Act, Hydropower, Recreation, Water Supply
13. Cultural Resources, Tribal Affairs
14. Small Boat Harbors and Intergovernmental Coordination
15. Graduation Ceremony including Presentation of Critical Think Pieces (Washington, DC)

The Planning Associates Class of 2010 - Flood Risk Management Training Module By Charissa Kelly, Fort Worth District

After a few weeks back in our home districts, the 2010 Planning Associates Class began the next journey of exploration with a trip to Folsom, California to learn about Flood Risk Management hosted by the [Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise \(FRM-PCX\)](#). Course owners, Miki Fujitsubo (Sacramento District and a graduate of the Planning Associates program in 2008), Steve O’Leary (Huntington District and a graduate of the Planning Associates program in 2009), and Eric Thaut (South Pacific Division) lined up a wonderful selection of instructors and a great curriculum to meet the objectives of the course.

We learned about the history of the Corps’ involvement in flooding issues and the evolution of that involvement from flood control to flood protection to flood damage reduction to today’s perspective of comprehensive flood risk management. Effective communication of the risks, including residual risk, associated with living in a flood plain was a major theme throughout the week.

Larry Buss (Omaha District and Chairman of the [National Non-Structural/Flood Proofing Committee](#)) discussed the need to fully explore the potential for non-structural measures throughout the planning process. He challenged the class to think outside the box of how to communicate flood risk to a community, and he further challenged us to think about whether such measures might be a form of non-structural flood risk mitigation.

We learned about policy and guidance related to non-structural flood risk management planning and about various traditional non-structural measures. Included with the instruction was a discussion of how non-structural measures such as raising structures leave the impression of continued risk of flood damage due to living in a floodplain; whereas, structural measures such as floodwalls and levees are perceived by the public to provide “protection” from flooding by removing the area from the floodplain. This discussion continued to highlight the communication challenge we face in changing how people think about their flood risk.

On Wednesday, the class went on a field trip to look at various projects in the Sacramento area. At Folsom Dam, we learned about the [Joint Federal Project](#) and observed construction of this combined effort to provide flood risk mitigation to the Sacramento area for 0.5 percent chance exceedance events. Tim Washburn of the [Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency](#) provided a local sponsor perspective about the challenges of providing flood risk management to the Natomas area of Sacramento and the challenges of dealing with vegetation on levees. A visit to levees along the Sacramento River further demonstrated the issues with vegetation on levees, bank erosion, and encroachment. A stop at the [Yolo Basin Bypass Wildlife Area](#), the first Section 1135 habitat restoration project constructed by the Corps, provided a great example of how ecosystem restoration, agriculture, and flood risk management purposes can work in balance with each other.



Dave Feliz of the California Department of Fish and Game explains the Yolo Wetland project to Melissa Montag (PA 2010 Sacramento District).

Eric Thaut facilitated a panel discussion with the presenters after a day of case study presentations and information on the Flood Risk Management Program, the “Silver Jackets” Program, and FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program map modernization effort. Utilizing questions submitted by the PAs, the discussion had a heavy emphasis on the need for better communication of flood risk and the need for a unified Federal Agency message about flood risk. The PAs enjoyed the opportunity to discuss concepts which had been presented throughout the week, and the open discussion with the panel members.

As our week in Folsom came to end, Sara Schultz (Sacramento District) gave a presentation on [Orestimba Creek](#). The class was provided an opportunity to practice their alternative formulation skills during a class exercise using the Orestimba Creek information presented. The exercise was an opportunity for the class to understand that how the problem statement is framed will guide the formulation of measures to address the problem and trust the planning process. Clark Frentzen (Chief of Planning at South Pacific Division and a member of the National Non-Structural/Flood Proofing Committee) challenged the class to rethink how problem statements are developed in a comprehensive flood risk management framework.

The day ended with Eric Thaut, the Program Manager for the Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise presenting an overview of the center's functions in Corps planning studies.

Over the weekend, the Planning Associates made their way to Huntington, West Virginia to the Inland Navigation Center of Expertise, where they have their next training module on the subject of inland navigation transportation and economics. Look to next month's *Planning Ahead* to find out what they learned at the Inland Navigation Center of Expertise.

Charissa Kelly has been with the Corps for 8 years and is a planner for the Fort Worth District. Currently, she serves as the Project Manager for the San Antonio River Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Where are the PAs in their year long journey?
Bold indicates course just completed.

1. Orientation, Team Building, Leadership, and Communication (Deerfield Beach, FL)
2. Planning Fundamentals (Phoenix, AZ)
3. Ecosystem Restoration (New Orleans, LA)
4. Engineering Research and Development Center and Mississippi Valley Division (Vicksburg, MS)
5. Watersheds (San Antonio, TX)
6. Washington, DC Experience
- 7. Flood Risk Management**
8. Inland Navigation
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13. Cultural Resources, Tribal Affairs
14. Small Boat Harbors and Intergovernmental Coordination
15. Graduation Ceremony including Presentation of Critical Think Pieces (Washington, DC)



WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WATER OPERATIONS TECHNICAL SUPPORT (WOTS) PROGRAM

A WORKSHOP ON STREAMS AND RIPARIAN AREAS FOR WATER QUALITY, RESTORATION AND IMPROVED ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Environmental Laboratory is pleased to announce that a free workshop on restoration and management of streams and riparian areas for water quality and ecological functions is now scheduled for **10-12 August 2010** in Colorado Springs, CO. This workshop will include a variety of technical presentations by ERDC engineers and scientists on stream/riparian restoration and management, centering on the prevention and control of non-point source pollution using riparian buffer strips along streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. We will also address methods and techniques that provide a broad range of physical and ecological functions, including streambank protection and bioengineering, and habitat and movement corridors. Many stream and riparian restoration efforts have been recently completed by the instructors, with numerous tools and techniques applied to satisfy project goals. This workshop will also provide an in-depth analysis and presentation of the problems and potential solutions available for the assessment, design, and implementation of riparian buffer strips.

Attendance priority will be given to USACE employees first. Those from other Federal and state agencies, and well as our non-federal partners are also encouraged to attend on a space-available basis. Details on the specific location of the workshop within Colorado Springs are still in the works and will be available soon. If you have any questions please contact the course coordinator, Dr. Richard Fischer (Richard.A.Fischer@usace.army.mil). This workshop is made possible by funds from the USACE Water Operations Technical Support Program (<http://el.erdcl.usace.army.mil/wots>).

WORKSHOP GOALS

- o Develop a philosophy of bank stabilization design that emphasizes an understanding of the stream as a complex inter-related system that encompasses both local and system-wide processes and problems.
- o Apply the concepts of grade control and the Channel Evolution Model (CEM).
- o Guidance on how to develop appropriate project goals.
- o Learn about innovative bank protection methods and how to choose the appropriate method or combination of techniques.
- o Discuss the importance of project constructability, monitoring, and maintenance
- o Learn how to read a stream and analyze a streambank erosion problem with an experienced practitioner.
- o To access and design associated riparian areas to prevent non-point source pollution such as eroded sediments in streams, rivers, and reservoirs; and consideration for methods that provide for a broad range of physical and ecological functions, including water quality improvement, flood storage capacity, habitat and movement corridors, and aesthetics.
- o Perform a series of in-the-field site analyses, understanding the role of project goals in the development of conceptual flow analyses, and designing stabilization plans that relate to the project performance goals.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

These are but a few of the many available positions advertised on the Army's Civilian Personnel on line website, <http://cpol.army.mil> and USAJOBS website, <http://www.usajobs.gov>. Note that clicking on the vacancy announcement number redirects the reader to the job description on the www.usajobs.gov website.

Employment opportunities around the Corps:

(1) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWGL10115997](#)

Opening Date: April 21, 2010 Closing Date: May 05, 2010

Position: GS-13: Community Planner (0020), Social Scientist (0101), Economist (0110), Archeologist (0193), Biologist (0401), Ecologist (0408), Landscape Architect (0807), Civil Engineer (0810), Hydrologist (1315)

Salary: \$81,823 - \$106,369 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Memphis; Regional Planning & Env. Div., South Memphis Planning Branch, Plan Formulation & Economics Sec, Memphis, TN

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(2) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTGH10181181](#)

Opening Date: April 09, 2010 Closing Date: May 07, 2010

Position: Biological Sciences Environmental Specialist, GS-0401-13

Salary: \$81,823 - \$106,369 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City; Planning, Programs and Project Mgt. Div.; Planning Br., Env. Res. Sec., Kansas City, MO

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(3) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTHG10063959R](#)

Opening Date: April 26, 2010 Closing Date: May 10, 2010

Position: Fishery Biologist, GS-0482-12/13

Salary: \$68,809 - \$106,369 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Walla Walla; Planning, Programs and Project Mgmt Div; Planning Br, Environmental Analysis Sec., Walla Walla, WA

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(4) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWHB10180683](#)

Opening Date: April 12, 2010 Closing Date: May 12, 2010

Position: Regional Economist, GS-0110-11/12

Salary: \$64,724 - \$100,851 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston; Planning and Environmental Branch, Planning Section, Galveston, TX Duty Station: Galveston, TX

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 2

(5) Vacancy Announcement Number: [NCFL10183319](#)

Opening Date: April 26, 2010 Closing Date: May 16, 2010

Position: GS-15: Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Physical Scientist (1301), Supervisory Biologist (0401)

Salary: \$122,064 - \$155,500 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Institute for Water Resources, National Capital Region - Group W, Alexandria, VA
Position Status: Temporary Position Not to Exceed: one year -- Full Time
Number of Vacancy: 1

(6) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTHE10821187OC](#)

Opening Date: March 01, 2010 Closing Date: November 08, 2010

First Cut off Date: May 01, 2010

Position: GS-12: General Engineer (0801), Landscape Architect (0807), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Fish Biologist (0482), Wildlife Biologist (0486), Physical Scientist (1301), Community Planner (0020)

Salary: \$72,540 - \$94,300 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Portland; Planning, Programs and Project Management Div., Planning Branch, Duty Station: Portland, OR

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(7) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTHE10107178OC](#)

Opening Date: March 02, 2010 Closing Date: March 01, 2011

Position: GS-13: General Engineer (0801), Landscape Architect (0807), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Fish Biologist (0482), Wildlife Biologist (0486), Physical Scientist (1301), Community Planner (0020), Biologist (0401), Chemist (1320), Economist (0110), Industrial Engineer (0896)

Salary: \$86,260 - \$112,136 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Portland; Planning, Programs and Project Management Div., Planning Branch, Duty Station: Portland, OR

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

PROSPECT TRAINING COURSES

Upcoming USACE sponsored PROSPECT training courses of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include:

PCC3 ENV CONSIDERATIONS

Control Number: 408

May 10-14, 2010

Seattle, WA

This class surveys environmental topics needed for new planners to pursue civil works planning studies. Participants learn to recognize the basis for and key components of NEPA documents consistent with applicable environmental laws, regulations and procedures necessary to conduct civil works planning studies. Students will also receive basic information regarding the Corps ecosystem restoration authorities and guidance on partnership development. Course includes field trip and experiential exercises to demonstrate and apply course learnings.

The class consists of a series of modules summarizing the many laws, regulations, and planning processes governing environmental aspects of the Corps of Engineers civil works planning process. Modules include an overview of the process and its relationship to compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act, and the contents and procedural requirements for the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements. Regulatory discussions address the: Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Other topics include mitigation, cost effectiveness analysis, environmental sustainability, and guidance on ecosystem restoration under the continuing authorities and general investigation programs. Ecosystem and other impact assessment methods are reviewed, with exercises focused on the selection of assessment procedures for wetland evaluations.

Nominees should be newly assigned to the Planning and Project or Program Management Components of the civil works planning programs with planning experience of less than 3 years or in fields having a nexus with a need for an understanding of environmental considerations in the planning process. Grade level: GS-5 through GS-11. Preference will be given to students who have completed the PCC1 Civil Works Orientation course and the PCC2 Planning Process and Principles Course or equivalent.

PCC6 PLAN FORMULATION

Control Number: 406

July 27-30, 2010

Park City, UT

This course provides less experienced district and division planners with a basic overview of the Corps of Engineers plan formulation process in accordance with current policies and procedures. It is developed for those who are relatively new to civil works planning or individuals who require an overall understanding of the policies and procedures involved in the plan formulation process. This course contains one or more field trips and several experiential classroom and field exercises to reinforce application of course learnings.

Basic student learning objectives for this course include general understanding of the plan formulation process; the steps of plan formulation and how plan formulation fits within the six-step planning process. Multipurpose plan formulation strategies and approaches for ecosystem restoration, flood damage reduction, navigation and true multipurpose application is covered and discussed through a series of presentations; and, various class, group and individual exercises. Presentations and class exercises also include a field trip based case study(ies) designed to provide experiential learning through application of the plan formulation process, plan formulation strategies, guidance and policy. The course is conducted in an informal atmosphere to encourage class interaction.

To attend these courses or to receive additional information about other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>.

CONFERENCES

The following is a list of conferences, workshops, and symposia that may be of interest to members of the Planning Community of Practice, as well as other practitioners in field of water resources. Those conferences, workshops and symposia in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in the organization, sponsorship, or where members of the Corps have been identified as speakers or presenters, are identified in *italics*.

National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference

May 3-6, 2010

Austin, TX

Additional information: http://mitigationbankingconference.com/mitigation_initial.htm

Association of Floodplain Managers 34th Annual National Conference

May 16—21, 2010

Oklahoma City, OK

Additional information: <http://www.floods.org>

River Management Society and National Association of Recreation Resource Planners 2010 Symposium “Bridging Conservation and Recreation”

May 18—20, 2010

Portland, OR

Additional information: <http://www.river-management.org/symposium-2010/home.htm>

USACE Planning Community of Practice Conference

June 7—10, 2010

Orlando, FL

Additional information: http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PlanningCOP/Pages/2010_plnconf.aspx

Joint 9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference and 4th Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conference

June 27—July 1, 2010

Las Vegas, NV

Additional information: <http://www.jfic2010.org/>

35th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Application Workshop

July 10-14, 2010

Broomfield, CO

Additional information: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/>

2010 Watershed Management Conference “Innovations in Watershed Management Under Land Use and Climate Change”

August 23-27, 2010

Madison, WI

Additional information: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2010/index.html>

2010 Arizona Hydrological Society Symposium “Dryland Hydrology: Global Challenges, Local Solutions”

September 1-4, 2010

Tucson, AZ

Additional information: <http://www.hydrosymposium.org>

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association “National Coastal Conference”

October 13-15, 2010

Charleston, SC

Additional information: <http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm>

5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

November 13-17, 2010

Galveston Island, TX

Additional information: <https://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of recently published reports, studies, or articles prepared by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, or other research organizations:

“Quadrennial Defense Review Report”, February 2010. U.S. Department of Defense.
Available at: <http://www.defense.gov/qdr/>

“Reenergizing America’s Defense: How the Armed Forces Are Stepping Forward to Combat Climate Change and Improve the U.S. Energy Posture”, by The Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate, 2010. Available at: <http://pewclimatesec-cdn-remembers.s3.amazonaws.com/172e73107e0952fd86378269bdeb62f6.pdf>

“A Scientific Assessment of Alternatives for Reducing Water Management Effects on Threatened and Endangered Fishes in California’s Bay Delta”, prepared by the National Research Council, Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay Delta, March 2010.
Available at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12881

“Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2005”, by Joan F. Kenny, Nancy L. Barber, Susan S. Hutson, Kristin S. Linsey, John K. Lovelace, and Molly A. Maupin, U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1344, 2009
Available at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1344/>

“Ecological Impacts of Climate Change”, by the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Committee on Ecological Impacts of Climate Change
Available at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12491

“Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate”, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Panel on Strategies and Methods for Climate-Related Decision Support, 2009
Available at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12626

“Building a Stronger Corps—A Snapshot of How the Corps is Applying Lessons Learned From Katrina”, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 30 April 2009, Available at:
http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/USACE_PK_Update_Report_Final.pdf

“Sustainable Water Systems: Step One—Redefining the Nation’s Infrastructure Challenge”, The Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Program, Available at:
<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/WaterInfrastructure.pdf>

“Disaster Recovery: Experiences from Past Disasters Offer Insights for Effective Collaboration after Catastrophic Events”, Government Accountability Office, GAO Report -09-811, Available at:
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-811>

“Elevated East Coast Sea Level Anomaly: June—July 2009”, NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 051, August 2009, Available at:
http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/EastCoastSeaLevelAnomaly_2009.pdf

A Greener Shale of Blue? State of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary 2008”, San Francisco Estuary Project and CALFED, Available at: <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/pdfs/soe/SOE-2008.pdf>

“Fast Forward: Key Issues in Modernizing the U.S. Freight Transportation System for Future Economic Growth” by Richard Hillestad, Ben D. Van Roo, and Keenan D. Yoho, RAND Supply Chain Policy Center, Available at: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG883/>

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

Planning Ahead is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format. Please send articles to Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman, at Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is
Wednesday, May 12, 2010

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